

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are currently pending in the application. New claims 41-43 are presented for consideration.

Claims 2 and 21 stand objected to because of identified informalities which have been addressed by amendment herein.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, 22, 28, 29, 34, 35 and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,483,180, to Bayan et al (Bayan). Claims 2, 4, 5, 11-14, 17-19, 21, 23, 24, 30-33 and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Bayan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,448,107, to Hong et al (Hong). Claims 6-8 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 §103 as obvious over Bayan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,378,656, to Kajihara et al (Kajihara). Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-40 is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to characterize the at least one lead on at least one of the unit lead frames as having a length, a width, and a thickness. The at least one lead has an undercut extending along a substantial length of the at least one lead. The undercut defines a receptacle for resin that enhances the bond between the lead frame and the resin. None of Bayan, Hong, or Kajihara teaches or suggests a corresponding lead undercut in combination with the other elements recited in claim 1.

Claim 9 has been amended to further characterize the undercut as extending to approximately one half the thickness of the at least one lead. This additional limitation more clearly distances the claimed subject matter from the prior art.

Claims 2-8 and 10-19 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further structural detail to further distinguish over the prior art.

Independent claim 20 and its dependent claim 28 have been amended similarly to claims 1 and 9, respectively, i.e. to include an undercut in a lead and by characterizing the undercut as extending to approximately one half the thickness thereof.

Claims 39 and 40 have likewise been amended to recite in the method and apparatus an undercut in at least one lead. Claims 41 and 42 respectively depend from claims 39 and 40 and characterize the lead undercut as extending to approximately one half the thickness thereof. Accordingly, these amended claims are believed allowable for the reasons advanced relative to the allowability of claim 1 and 9.

Claim 43 makes even a further distinction by characterizing the undercut as residing fully within, and spaced from, the side edges of the lead.

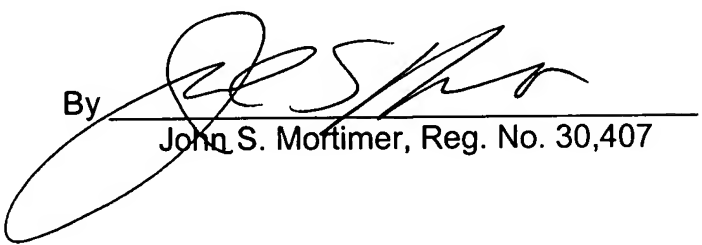
The claims which depend from claims 39 and 40 recite further significant structural detail and method limitations to further delineate over the prior art.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-40 and allowance of the case are requested.

Enclosed is the extra claim fee of \$54.00. Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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